other Bench for fresh arguments. It is open to the Chief Justice to grant the said prayer or to pass any other order as he deems fit in the circumstances.

New scheme for girl child

*52. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme for the girl child has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds for implementation of the scheme would be allocated to States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHARY): (a) and (b) The Scheme of Conditional Cash Transfer for the Girl Child with Insurance Cover has been included in the Annual Plan 2007-2008 as a Central Sector Scheme and includes cash transfer to the family of the girl child based on the fulfilment of four important conditionalities *viz.* birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age.

(c) to (e) As the scheme is proposed to be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme, States will not be allocated funds for implementation.

Implementation of mega food projects

*53. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many mega food projects in the country are in the process of implementation and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) how many more parks are proposed to be established in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has submitted a scheme to Planning Commission, which envisages providing financial assistane for setting up of thirty mega Food Parks in the country during 11th Five Year Plan period. The scheme which is project oriented, aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maxmization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. Mega Food Park envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages. Under the scheme, finanacial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 50% of the project cost in general areas and upto 75% of the project cost in special category states subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crore or the cost of approved facilities, whichever is lower, has been envisaged for all implementing agencies.

Under 10th Plan Scheme, MFPI has approved financial assistane of Rs. 208.54 crore for fifty six (56) food parks in the country including four food parks in Rajasthan upto 31st March, 2007. Of this, financial assistance of Rs. 12.51 crore has been approved for four Food Parks at Ranpur (District Kota), Boranda (District Jodhpur), Sri Ganganagar and Alwar in Rajasthan.

Position of India in the Human Development Index of UNDP

*54. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) is it correct that India still has the largest number of illiterates in the world and according to the 2001 census, India had nearly 304 million illiterate people, aged seven plus, and with its poor literacy level, India ranks a poor 126th in the Human Development Index of UNDP;

(b) whether despite two nation-wide programmes, *i.e.* Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the National Literacy Mission, illiteracy rate has not been reduced; and

(c) if so, the main reasons for non-elimination of illiteracy completely in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) In the past decades, there had been a continuous increase in India in the absolute number of illiterates, despite the increase in the literacy rate. However, for the first time in the year 2001, the total number of illiterates got reduced to 304.11 million from 328.88 million in the year 1991, which works out to reduction in illiteracy from 47.8% of the population in 1991 to 35.2% in 2001.

As per Human Development Report 2006, India ranks 126th out of the 177 countries of the world covered by this Report. Adult literacy is only one of the several variables on the basis of which the Human Development Index is calculated. It would not be correct to say that the illiteracy rate has not been reduced despite major schemes such as the National Literacy Mission (NLM) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The decline in the number/percentage of the illiterate persons as noted above, can be attributed largely to the activities under Elementary Education and Adult Education. Under SSA, which commenced in 2001, substantially larger enrolment of children has been recorded as also a fall in the number of out-of-school children.

(c) Various socio-economic factors such as poverty and lack of awareness, contribute to the persistence of the illiteracy in the country.

Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research Programme

*55. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have planned to initiate Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research Programme for the promotion of research activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the fiscal allocation for this programme; and

(d) the number of scientists and research scholars expected to be selected under this programme, State-wise?